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WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY				MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS					
<p>With March ending as one of the driest on record, Maryland farmers have made progress on field preparations for spring planting, but many agriculturalists are concerned. Water tables have dropped to very low levels as there were 7 days suitable for field work last week. On average, Maryland growers received less than 0.25 inches of rainfall over the past week; putting most reporting stations at 2 to 7 inches deficits since January 1, 2006. As of April 2, 2006, topsoil moisture was reported as 68 percent very short and 32 percent short while subsoil moisture was reported as 21 percent very short, 56 percent short, and 23 percent adequate.</p> <p>Small grain development has been stunted by the dry conditions. Wheat stands are currently reported to be 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Maryland barley fields are rated as 13 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Some vegetable planting is underway although dry, hard fields have somewhat limited progress. Planting of green peas, potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes, and watermelons was reported.</p> <p>Early plantings of field corn may be delayed if moisture levels remain low.</p> <p>Pasture conditions around the state were reported as 2 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. State hay supplies were rates as 13 percent very short, 24 percent short, and 63 percent adequate.</p>									
CASH GRAINS – REGIONAL – (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES									
Grade and Commodity		#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date		03/29 04/05		03/29 04/05		03/29 04/05		03/29 04/05	
Western, MD		2.35 2.40		5.20 4.99		3.23 3.25		1.73 1.73	
Central, MD		2.20 2.40		5.65 5.19		3.46 3.36		---- ----	
Southern, MD		2.22 2.35		5.47 5.29		---- ----		---- ----	
Upper E. Shore		2.36 2.49		5.65 5.47		---- ----		---- ----	
Lower E. Shore		2.38 2.53		5.95 5.66		3.00 2.96		1.50 1.50	
Soybean Meal		Lower Eastern Shore				Dealer's Average Cash Quotes (\$ton)			
Date		03/29 04/05		Date		03/29 04/05			
48% Soybean Meal		208.00 201.00		44% Soybean Meal		196.00 189.00			
FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE – REGIONAL (\$/bu) for Harvest Delivery Dealer's Avg. Quotes									
Grade and Commodity		#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date		03/29 04/05		03/29 04/05		03/29 04/05		03/29 04/05	
Western MD		---- ----		---- ----		---- ----		---- ----	
Central MD		2.52 2.57		6.05 5.35		3.55 3.12		---- ----	
Southern MD		2.35 2.47		5.70 5.50		3.20 3.21		1.45 1.45	
Upper E Shore		2.53 2.65		5.83 5.63		3.19 3.20		1.50 1.50	
Lower E Shore		2.61 2.72		6.01 5.77		3.24 3.23		1.60 1.60	
GRAIN FUTURES – Chicago Board of Trade (Cents & Quarter – cents/bushel) Settle – April 5, 2006									
Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal ¹			
06May 236'2		06May 561'4		06May 347'0		06May 172'3			
06Jul 247'4		06Jul 576'0		06Jul 360'0		06Jul 174'6			
06Sep 256'6		06Aug 579'4		06Sep 371'2		06Aug 176'1			
06Dec 268'0		06Sep 583'0		06Dec 386'2		06Sep 177'0			
07Mar 275'6		06Nov 591'6		07Mar 400'4		06Oct 177'5			
07May 280'2		07Jan 599'2		07May 407'0		06Dec 179'4			
07Jul 281'6		07Mar 606'4		07Jul 412'2		07Jan 180'5			
07Sep 280'4		07May 612'0		07Dec 425'2		07Mar 182'5			
/Price Unit: Dollars and cents/ton (100 tons (2,000 lbs/ton))									
HAY AND STRAW									
New Holland, PA - \$/ton – April 3, 2006									
Alfalfa		Mixed Hay		Timothy		Orchard grass		Straw	
95.00 – 260.00		115.00 - 285.00		135.00 - 235.00		102.00 - 240.00		100.00 - 205.00	
Westminster, MD - \$/bale – April 4, 2006 85 Lots									
Alfalfa		Alfalfa Mix		Timothy		Timothy Mix		Grass Mix	
3.30 - 5.70		1.65 - 5.80		2.10 - 4.20		1.90 - 7.10		1.50 - 6.50	
								Straw	
								1.10 - 3.00	
Southern, MD – Regional Farmers' Market April 1, 2006									
Product Name		Low	High	Average	Product Name		Low	High	Average
Alfalfa		5.00	7.00	5.72	Lespedeza		5.00	6.50	5.75
Alfalfa Mixed		5.60	6.50	6.08	Mixed Grass		4.70	5.30	5.08
Final Hay auction of the 2005-2006 season will be April 15, 2006									

POULTRY											
Negotiated price for trucklot of ready-to-cook, ice-pack, Grade A Fryers (\$ per CWT) – Week Ending –April 8, 2006											
		Current Week		Week Ago		Month Ago		Year Ago			
N.Y. Weighted Avg.		49.61		51.91		69.60		72.75			
12 City Composite		58.92		60.55		62.94		73.65			
LAMBS – Westminster, MD - \$/cwt – April 4, 2006											
Lambs		Under 50lbs	190.00 - 210.00	Sheep		42.50 - 82.50					
		50 - 80 lbs	150.00 - 220.00	Too Thin		20.00 - 40.00					
		90 - 130 lbs	115.50 - 160.00	Too Fat		22.50 - 40.00					
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS – April 5, 2006				DIRECT MARKET HOGS – Westminster, MD – April 4, 2006							
Base Price Range a.m. Eastern Corn belt Iowa, Minn	Carcass Basis Base 185 lb Hog 44.75-55.41 45.00-54.50	Sows (1 -3) 300 – 449 lbs N/A N/A	Butcher Hogs			Boars					
						Light Weights		25.00 -27.00			
			Heavy Weights			28.00-35.00		Crippled		9.50 - 16.00	
			Sows								
			Heavy Weights			24.00-35.00					
			Thin or Wet			5.00-15.00					
				Millsboro, DE Market Hogs - cents/lb		32 - 36					
FEEDER PIGS – (\$/CWT) –											
Gumboro, DE March 21, 2006		Next sale date – April 18, 2006		New Holland, PA							
Head: 180				Head		Trend:					
Under 30 lbs	132.00 - 132.00	50 - 59 lbs	50.00 - 91.00	Not Available							
30 - 39 lbs	124.00 - 141.00	80 - 89 lbs	40.00 - 40.00								
40 – 49 lbs	60.00 - 119.00										
CATTLE –LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) – April 5, 2006				HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) – April 5, 2006							
APR06	78.90	OCT06	79.35	APR06	55.65	JLY06	64.45				
JUN06	74.05	DEC06	81.20	MAY06	63.43	AUG06	63.73				
AUG06	75.63	FEB07	83.63	JUN06	64.50	OCT06	54.75				
STOCKER – FEEDER CATTLE – (\$/cwt)											
Winchester, VA – April 3, 2006				Westminster, MD – April 4, 2006							
Steers	300 - 400 lbs	134.00 -147.00		Steers	200 - 300 lbs	120.00 -133.00					
	400 - 500 lbs	122.00 -135.00			400 - 500 lbs	117.00 -129.00					
	500 - 600 lbs	114.50 -124.00			600 - 700 lbs	74.00 - 99.00					
	600 - 700 lbs	116.00 -124.00			800-1000 lbs	70.00 - 90.00					
	700 - 800 lbs	97.00									
Heifers	300 - 400 lbs	120.00 -135.00		Heifers	200 - 300 lbs	109.00 -137.50					
	400 - 500 lbs	115.00 -122.50			400 - 500 lbs	97.50 -112.50					
	500 - 600 lbs	102.00 -116.50			600 - 700 lbs	72.00 - 87.50					
	600 - 700 lbs	90.00 -102.00									
	700 - 800 lbs	84.00 - 95.75									
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)											
Westminster, MD – April 4, 2006				Fed Heifers							
Sltr. Cows				Choice		82.50-86.50					
Premium				Select		77.50-79.00					
Breakers				Holsteins		69.25					
Boners											
Thin & Slow				Hols. Bull Calves #1		245.00-260.00					
				#2		205.00-240.00					
				#3		145.00-200.00					
Fed Steers											
Choice & Prime				Culls		75.00-110.00					
Low Choice				Jerseys		47.50-75.00					
Select				Beef Cross:		210.00					
Holsteins - heavy				Hols. Heifers #2		230.00-390.00					
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage –April 6, 2006											
Sltr. Steers: H Ch & Pr 2-4		1295 -1500 lbs	81.50-84.10	Sltr. Heifers:							
		1525 -1625 lbs	78.50-82.50	Choice &Pr 2-4		1155-1430 lbs	76.00-81.75				
Choice 2- 3		1145- 1490 lbs	78.00-82.00								
		1505 -1580 lbs	76.00-80.25	Sltr. Cows:		Percent Lean	Bulk				
Select 1-3		1100-1465 lbs	77.50-80.50	Premium White		65 - 75	54.00-57.25				
Hols. Steers: H Ch & Pr 2-3		1415-1570 lbs	74.25-77.25	Breakers		75 - 80	52.00-56.25				
Choice 2-3		1350-1580 lbs	72.00-75.25	Boners		80 - 85	49.00-53.00				
Select 1-2		1180-1475 lbs	67.50-70.25	Lean		88 - 90	46.00-50.50				

Compiled by USDA, NASS, Maryland Field Office			
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